User charges dues of private airlines

1224. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY:
SHRI MOINUL HASSAN:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of dues as user charges in respect of services of Airports Authority of India (AAI) from the private airlines;

(b) what are the area of services for which the user charges are being charged; and

(c) whether they are revised as per the increase of airfare by the private airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Total dues payable by major domestic airlines as on 31st October, 2009 are Rs. 277.55 crores.

(b) Major aeronautical services provided to airlines by Airports Authority of India (AAI) for which users are charged include Route Navigation Facilities (RNFC), Terminal Navigation Landing Facilities (TNLC), Landing and Housing and Parking of the aircraft, besides rent for space occupied.

(c) No, Sir.

Losses incurred by Air India

†1225. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of the loss being incurred by Air India at present and the reasons therefor;

(b) the amount of funds sought by Air India from Government to overcome the Financial crisis;

(c) whether a committee had been constituted under the Chairmanship of cabinet secretary for providing suggestions to reduce the expenses of Air India;

(d) if so, the details of the recommendations thereof;

(e) since when the Air India is incurring losses and what measures have been taken by it to overcome the deficit; and

(f) the amount of assistance which has been already given to Air India by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Air India had incurred a loss of Rs.2226.16 crores during year 2007-08. It has expected to incur a loss of Rs.5,000 crores approximately (prov.) during the year 2008-09. The reasons for losses are mainly due to the prevalent economic recession and low yields and load factors.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) to (d) The Committee of Secretaries have taken note of the proposals for restructuring of Air India. Government will arrive at a decision upon those proposals.

(e) Erstwhile Air India is incurring losses since 2004-05. NACIL has taken several initiatives to turnaround the performance of the company focussing on Cost Reduction and Revenue Enhancement.

(f) No financial assistance has been given to Air India by the Government.

Air services in Kerala

1226. SHRI P. RAJEEVE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for changing for the operation of existing Indian Airlines flights to Air India flights from Calicut International Airport to various Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the amount of luggage the passengers are being permitted to carry in Air India flights and in Indian Airlines flights during the Gulf journey;

(d) whether there is any facility for cancellation and refund of the ticket fare in Air India Express; and

(e) whether there would be any change in the present practice of the Indian Airlines ferrying bodies of persons who die in the Gulf countries free of cost of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In order to improve profitability and offer a service/fare level that best suits the market requirements, the IC coded services and those of AI Express on Calicut-Gulf routes have been restructured.

(c) The baggage Permitted to carry on NACIL flights during the Gulf journey is 20 kg. (Economy class) and 30 kg. (Business class) when tickets are issued in India. When tickets issued in Gulf, the baggage permitted is 40 kg. (Economy class) and 50 kg. (Business class) for Gulf-Calicut and 20 kg. (Economy class) and 30 kg. (Business class) for Calicut-Gulf.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) No, Sir.

Plane crashes in the country

1227. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many senior leaders of the country have died in the plane crash;

(b) if so, the number of plane crashes in the country during the last three years; and

(c) the steps Government is taking to provide good aircrafts as well as their proper maintenance?